

## Vargas Plateau Regional Park

<b>Location</b>	2536 Morrison Canyon Rd. Fremont
<b>GPS</b>	37.574817, -121.932681
<b>Phone</b>	(888-327-2757), option 3, extension 4568
<b>Miles</b>	3.7-Mile Round Trip
<b>Elevation Gain</b>	462 ft.
<b>Trails</b>	Golden Eagle/Upper Ranch/ Golden Eagle
<b>Hours/ Curfew</b>	8 a.m. to Sunset; varies seasonally
<b>Fees</b>	None
<b>Website</b>	ebparks.org/parks/vargas

**MODERATE HIKE**

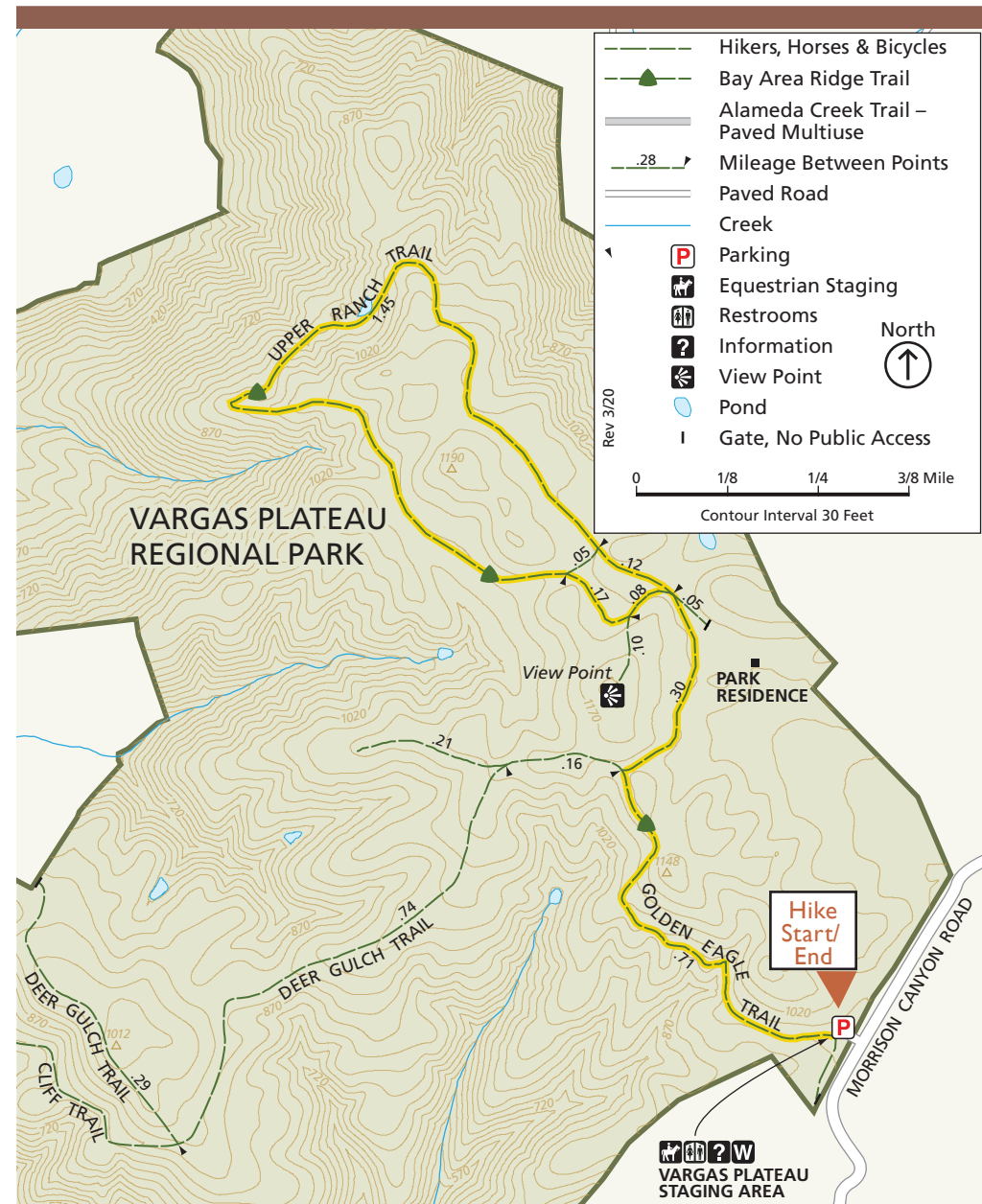


**Park Features:** This stunning 1,249-acre regional park provides tremendous views from the tops of the East Bay hills. The plateau rises quickly and steeply from the bay plain and towers over one thousand feet above the cities below, overlooking Niles Canyon, Fremont, Union City, Newark, and the San Francisco Bay beyond. Atop the plateau a pastoral landscape predominates, and golden eagles, hawks, deer, bobcats, frogs, snakes, and a variety of other animals make their home in the open grasslands, ponds, and steep wooded canyons. These characteristics make the park a great place for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation on the urban/wildland edge.

**Trail Highlights:** This hike begins with tremendous views from the tops of the East Bay hills, overlooking Fremont, Union City, Newark, and the San Francisco Bay beyond. To the southeast are views of Mission Peak. As you traverse the northeast part of the

park, the Upper Ranch Trail offers views of the steep canyon below including Niles Canyon and Highway 84. You will notice from the trail posts you will be following part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Vargas Plateau is an open range park so be watchful for roaming cows. Parking and restrooms available at the Vargas Plateau Staging Area.

**Trail Directions:** Park at the Vargas Plateau Staging Area, and follow the trail past the restrooms, continuing through the gate. Keep going straight onto Golden Eagle Trail, past the next trail post. Golden Eagle Trail will contour around the hill and continue through another gate. At the next junction, pass through another gate to follow the Upper Ranch Trail. As you continue, the Park Residence will be to your right. At the next trail post, stay to the right to continue on the Upper Ranch Trail. The next mile and half loop will descend towards the canyon before



climbing back uphill along the Bay Area Ridge Trail and reconnecting with the Golden Eagle Trail. Retrace your steps, turning right onto Golden Eagle Trail and following it back to the staging area.

**Driving Directions:** From I-680 in Fremont, exit at Vargas Rd. and go north. Drive about 1.6 miles to Morrison Canyon Rd. and turn right. The staging area is ahead on the left about .4 miles. Car-pooling is strongly recommended as staging area parking is limited. There is no street parking in the area.